



January 23, 2014

David Ziomek
Assistant Town Manager/
Director of Conservation & Development
Town of Amherst
4 Boltwood Avenue, Amherst, MA 01002

Dear Dave,

Kestrel Land Trust is pleased to support the effort to conserve the Saul property with the Town of Amherst to create a new Fort River Farm Conservation Area. The Kestrel Board of Trustees has committed to pre-acquiring the land from the landowner, Mr. Saul, and to temporarily owning the land until the Town can purchase it from Kestrel using a state LAND grant and CPA funds by June, 30 2014.

Kestrel is most interested in conserving this land because:

- it contains land classified as Biomap 2 Core Habitat and Critical Natural Landscape, or Priority Habitat for Rare and Endangered Species;
- it is in close proximity to critical water resources, including the Fort River, a medium-yield aquifer, and several vernal pools; and
- the land is adjacent to permanently protected active farmland.

In addition to supporting the conservation of this land, Kestrel recognizes the value of the Town's vision to integrate public community gardens, passive recreational opportunities, and agricultural education and support, all close to the village center. Through the service of our current AmeriCorps MassLIFT Community Engagement Coordinator, Kestrel plans to assist the efforts of the Town and Grow Food Amherst to create an "outdoor learning center" and community gardens on this land. We look forward to partnering with the Town and community volunteers to help make this vision a reality.

Sincerely,

Kristin DeBoer
Executive Director



December 5, 2013

TO: David Ziomek, Assistant Town Manager
FROM: John M. Gerber, Co-facilitator of Grow Food Amherst

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John M. Gerber', is written over the 'FROM' line of the letterhead.

On behalf of Grow Food Amherst, I am writing this letter in support of the Town acquiring the Saul property located in the East Amherst Village Center. As a group we believe that Town purchase and ownership of this parcel will provide agricultural opportunities that are different from those that exist on other Conservation parcels that will ultimately enable Grow Food Amherst to more easily facilitate its mission.

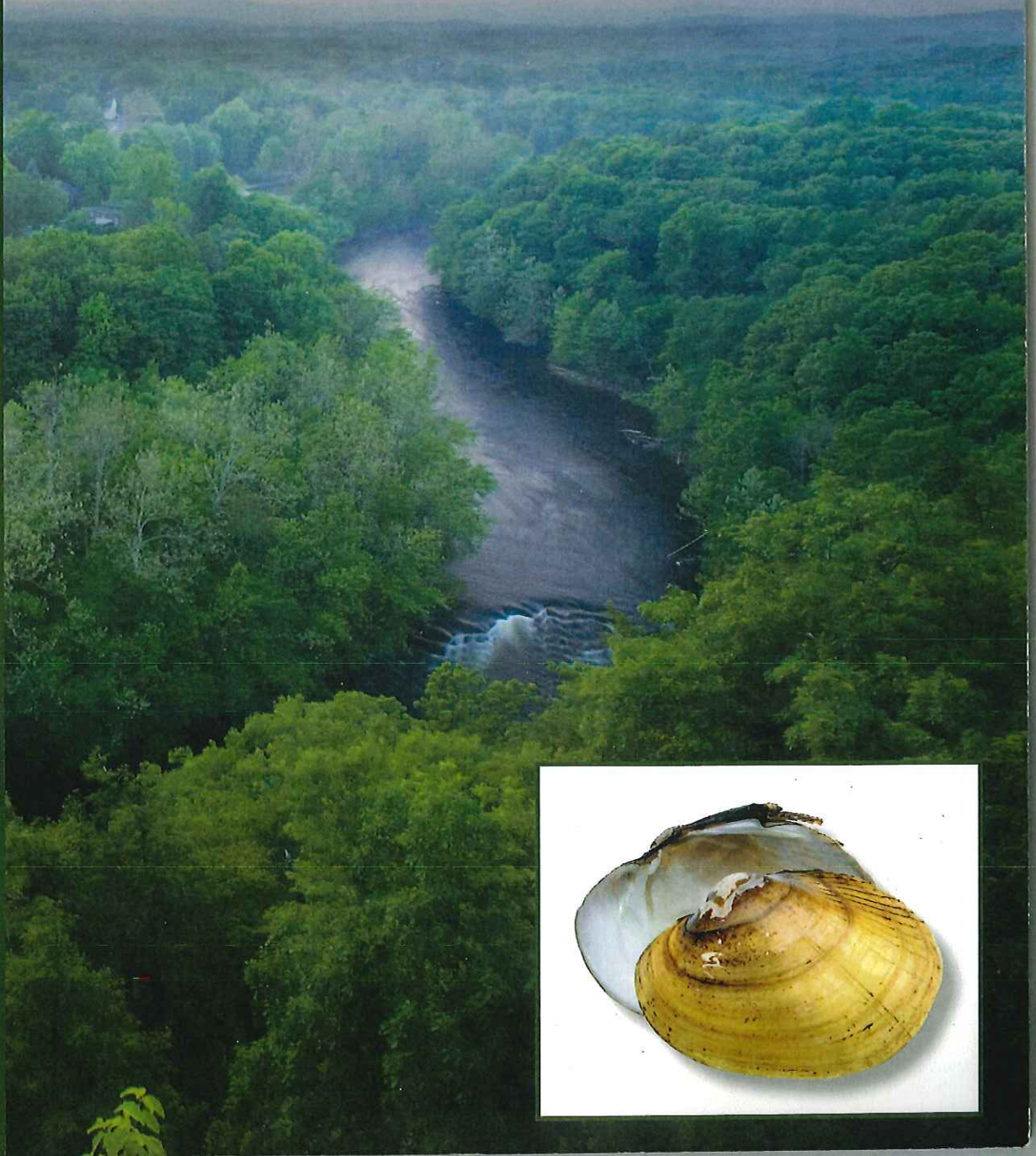
The mission of Grow Food Amherst is...

...to create a resilient community by actively engaging residents to support creative endeavors for growing healthy and affordable food locally, including public places and neighborhoods, and by encouraging more sustainable agriculture and permaculture projects in the Amherst, MA area.

We support the creation of a "Sharing Garden" that could be utilized for growing food for community members in need, education and public programming and are prepared to take a leadership role in overseeing this segment of the parcel by creating a subcommittee of members and soliciting and organizing community volunteers. Due to the accessible nature of this parcel via public transportation, we believe that it will provide an opportunity for community involvement that extends throughout the Town of Amherst.

It is our sincere hope that the Community Preservation Act Committee will fully support this effort and allocate the requested funding in support of the land purchase. On behalf of Grown Food Amherst, we look forward to participating in upcoming discussions of this opportunity.

Freshwater Mussels
and the
Connecticut River Watershed



Freshwater Mussels and the Connecticut River Watershed

Number of Species

0-2

3-4

5-6

7-8

9+

Passumpsic

Stevens

Wells

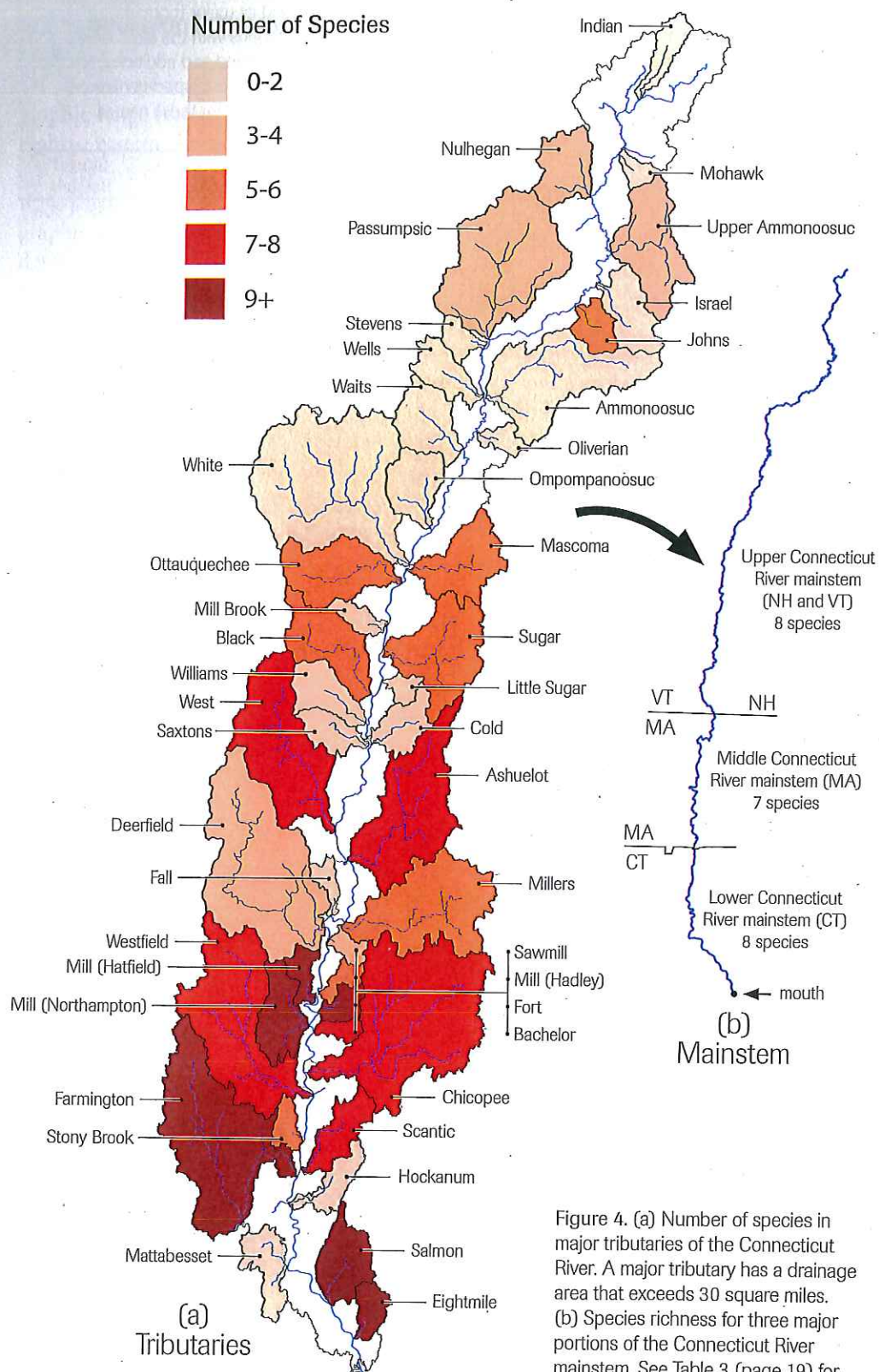


Figure 4. (a) Number of species in major tributaries of the Connecticut River. A major tributary has a drainage area that exceeds 30 square miles. (b) Species richness for three major portions of the Connecticut River mainstem. See Table 3 (page 19) for numeric data.

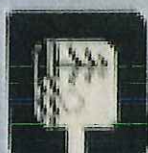


The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs



Governor Deval L. Patrick
Lt. Governor Timothy P. Murray
Secretary Richard K. Sullivan, Jr.

LAND Program



On November 26, 2013

\$105,665.00

Pay to the Order of

Town of Amherst

One Hundred Five Thousand Six Hundred Sixty-five and 00/100

Dollars

**Saul Acquisition - Preservation of Farming
Along the Fort River**

Deval L. Patrick, Governor

LAND Grant: Saul Acquisition Protection of the Fort River and Farming Town of Amherst



Priority Habitat

Project Area

Saul Property

NHESP Layers

Living Waters

Core Habitat

Priority Habitat of

Rare Species

Biomap 1

Core Habitat

Estimated Habitat

for Rare Wildlife

Living Waters

Support Watersheds

Potential Vernal

Pools



Horizontal Datum: NAD 83
Zone 41S, Datum NAD83, Feet

Photometric base map features compiled at 1:24,000
and 1"=100' scale from April, 1998 Aerial Photography,
Aerial Photography April, 2004.
The map was created using GIS technology to
match the base map features and property lines.
Property Lines are not for conveyance purposes.

The Town of Amherst and its mapping contractors assume
no legal responsibility for the information contained herein.

0 125 250

Feet

1 inch = 250 feet

